

REMARKS

The Official Action requires Applicants to Restrict the claims to one of the following inventions:

- I. Claims 1-5 drawn to a unitizing element;
- II. Claims 6-20 drawn to a sealing assembly;
- III. Claims 20-23 drawn to a method for assembling a sealing assembly.

Applicants hereby elect Claims 1-5, drawn to a unitizing element, for further prosecution.

The Official Action also requires Applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits from the following list of purportedly patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species I: Figures 1-3;

Species II: Figure 4;

Species III: Figures 5;

Species IV: Figures 6;

Species V: Figures 7.

Applicant hereby elects Species II, comprising Figure 4. Claims 1-5 are readable thereon. Further, Applicant respectfully traverses on the grounds that searching each species would not be unduly burdensome.

In light of the above Election and Restriction, claims 1-5 are currently pending, claims 6-23 having been withdrawn from consideration.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully requests early consideration of the present application, entry of all amendments herein requested, and allowance of all pending claims.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Todd W. Galinski at (336) 607-7448, to discuss any matter relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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